

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-20 MC-02 TRSE-00 EB-11 COME-00

IGA-02 OMB-01 /158 R

66616

DRAFTED BY AF/N: DLMACK:AG

APPROVED BY AF/N: JJBLAKE

EUR/P: WJGEHRON

NEA/P: JBRIGGS

AF/N: JMONTVILLE

AF/N: GMLANE

PM/MAS: JCLUNAN

DOD/ISA: COL. SKOGERBOE

USIA/INE: GWISHON

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P 202134Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

USCINCEUR

USS THOMAS J GARY

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CHINFO

OASDPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187523

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, TS

SUBJECT:SALE OF DESTROYER ESCORT

REF: TUNIS 5421

1. USG IS SELLING A DESTROYER ESCORT RADAR PICKET SHIP (DER) TO GOT. FOLLOWING IS PRESS RELEASE WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN TUNIS AT 1700 GMT SEPTEMBER 21:

QUOTE: THE USS THOMAS J. GARY, A DESTROYER ESCORT, FORMERLY HOMEPORTED IN KEY WEST, FLA. HAS BEEN PURCHASED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA FROM THE UNITED STATES AND WILL BE COMMISSIONED IN THE TUNISIAN NAVY DURING CEREMONIES AT BIZERTE, TUNISIA ON OCTOBER 22. THE GARY IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING MAINTENANCE AND RESUPPLY AT THE U.S. NAVAL FACILITY IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. THE SHIP WILL DEPART THE UNITED STATES ON OCTOBER 5 AND ARRIVE IN TUNIS ON OCTOBER 20. THREE OFFICERS AND THIRTY-THREE SEAMEN FROM THE TUNISIAN NAVY WILL BE TRAINING WITH THE CREW OF THE USS GARY FOR APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS AND WILL ASSIST IN SAILING THE VESSEL ON ITS TRANSIT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO TUNIS. THE USS GARY WILL BE RENAMED QUOTE PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA UNQUOTE AND WILL BECOME THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE TUNISIAN FLEET. UNQUOTE

2. IF ASKED BY HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD DRAW ON TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE FOR THEIR REPLIES. IN ADDITION, POSTS MAY NOTE THAT TRANSFER OF THE VESSEL, WHICH WAS BUILT IN 1943, DOES NOT SIGNAL ANY CHANGE IN USG POLICY IN THE AREA. THE USG HAS PROVIDED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

3. FOR TUNIS: PRESS RELEASE WILL BE USED IN US ON IF ASKED BASIS ONLY. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE187523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLMACK:AG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BLAKE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730921/aaaaaowb.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TUNIS 5421
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALE OF DESTROYER ESCORT
TAGS: MASS, TS
To: ALGIERS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005